

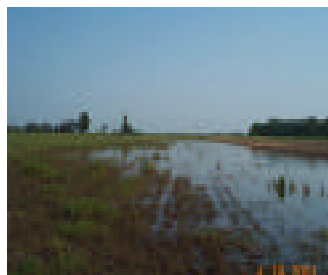


2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus —

The main focus of the Wetland Reserve Program in Georgia has been to provide habitat for native wildlife and migratory birds including threatened and endangered species.

Isolated wetlands not connected to other water bodies, support many species of waterfowl and wading birds as well as amphibians such as the tiger salamander.



Georgia Summary

Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Georgia's WRP goal is to restore and protect degraded and/or altered wetland functions within agricultural landscapes in an environmentally sound and cost effective manner. Georgia's objective for the WRP has been directed towards impaired wetland functions within agricultural landscapes. These landscapes are as follows: 1) Federal and State identified importance to wildlife species (including plants); 2) Sites within one (1) mile of protected conservation area(s) over 100 acres in size; 3) Wetlands and floodplains contiguous to rivers or streams receiving management emphasis by Federal and/or State agencies that are part of the Tennessee, Alabama, and Apalachicola Drainage Basins, or Limesink Region (Dougherty, Pelham, and Great Valley Regions); 4) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and/or Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, designated recharge areas such as, "Carolina Sinks or Bays" and "Grady Ponds", (depressional wetlands common in the Coastal Plains of the Southeast).

Accomplishments

Georgia has 8,489 acres enrolled in WRP. NRCS received eleven applications in the State for WRP in fiscal year 2001, of which five were funded. NRCS in Georgia has six unfunded applications that could add approximately 23,350 acres into the program. Restoration activities on WRP projects consist of ditch plugs, natural regeneration of bottomland hardwoods and fencing for livestock exclusion. Landowners have become increasingly interested in WRP as a result of the NRCS conservation planning efforts on individual farms.

Program Benefits

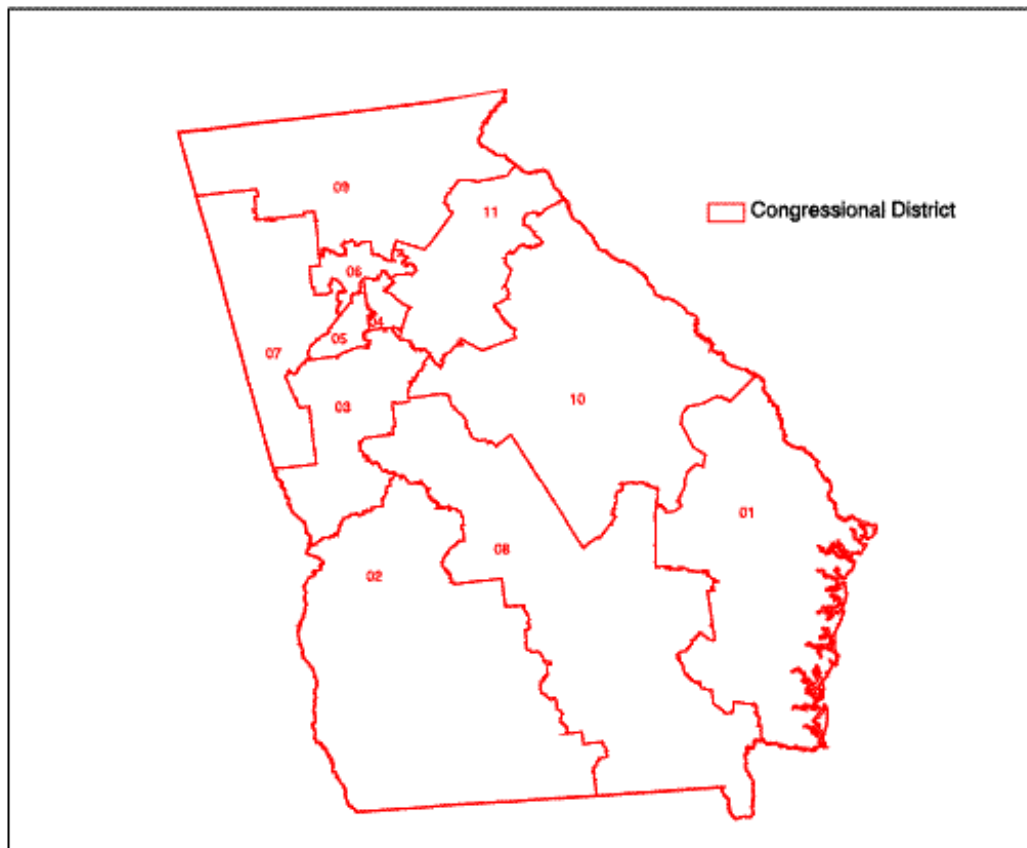
NRCS assists landowners in restoring the functions of their wetlands by installing practices that repair the hydrology, plants, and hydric soil conditions. WRP offers technical help and up to 100 percent of the fair market agricultural value of the land plus restoration costs to landowners for restoring and protecting agricultural wetlands.

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GEORGIA Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



GEORGIA Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	106,600.00	1	309,915.00	2
District 2	661,850.00	1	1,575,509.21	10
District 8			859,461.13	2
District 9	84,600.00	1	84,600.00	1
District 10			2,234,248.00	2
State Totals	853,050.00	3	5,063,733.34	17

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